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OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ORFILA ARRIVES 4 MARCH

PY050021 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] OAS Secretary General Alejandro Orfila arrived in Argentina this afternoon. He told reporters that he came in order to attend the wine vintage celebration in his province, remarking that he was happy to be in Argentina after a 2-year absence. Concerning the situation in El Salvador, he said that the call for elections is the best alternative, explaining that no projects for the creation of military forces that should intervene in El Salvador have been submitted at the OAS.

YACYRETA DAM-PROJECT WITH PARAGUAY POSTPONED

PY042245 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 4 Mar 82 p 11

[Text] (NA) -- The government has reportedly decided to delay work on the joint Argentine-Paraguayan Yacyreta hydroelectric project until next year. The decision has allegedly already been taken following an exchange of reports on the subject between the Foreign, Economy and Public Works and Services Ministries and the Planning Secretariat. One of the reasons for delaying the project apparently lies in the austerity program launched by the Economy Ministry, which would not provide the project with any funds. Another reason is the reported government decision not to increase Argentina's foreign debt through U.S. or European loans. However, an Argentine diplomat was quoted yesterday in the daily LA NACION as saying that Yacyreta will go through without any considerable delay.

Meanwhile, CLARIN quoted a reliable source as saying that the government is reviewing its commitments in the project and that there are studies on short-term energy demand in Argentina and on the possibility of using gas to meet that demand at a lesser cost. This alternative was first mentioned earlier this year as a project allegedly drawn up by Economy Minister Roberto Alemann. Reports of the goverment's alleged decision to delay work on Yacyreta are strengthened by the fact that Peter Scherer, director of the World Bank, is currently in Buenos Aires but has not met yet with officials of the project's binational board. Scherer has interviewed officials at several ministries but has apparently failed to receive a definite reply as to when work is due to start on the project. The World Bank has been requested to provide a substantial share of the funds required for Yacyreta. Current cost estimates, including financing costs, stand at nearly $10 billion (thousand million).

POSSIBILITY OF NUCLEAR DEVICE NOT DISMISSED

PY041841 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1320 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Mar (NA) -- Carlos Castro Madero, chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), maintained that Argentina will "not promise not to build a nuclear explosive for peaceful purposes" such as in mining activities or the construction of navigation canals. He explained that the possibility exists if it is proven that such a system is "feasible and necessary," but that "nothing has been decided yet." Castro Madero also termed "discriminatory" the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which Argentina refuses to sign because, he said, "it ignores the principle of the legal equality among nations, and has the purpose of perpetuating the privileges of those countries which have nuclear arms." Anyhow, he added, Argentina "supports the world effort aimed at attaining complete nuclear disarmament" and preventing arms proliferation, whether it be horizontal proliferation (new countries) or vertical proliferation (the increase of arsenals). He maintained that Argentina must make a move towards the use of plutonium which will allow it to double its nuclear energy potential. Further on he stated that Argentina will only ratify the Tlaltelolco treaty when the International Atomic Energy Agency agrees to sign the agreement of complementary safeguards, in keeping with the spirit and terms of the treaty, which will be acceptable for the country.

INFORMATION MINISTER'S RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

PY040149 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] The Bolivian Minister Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic Juan Carlos Duran Saucedo has announced the decision of President Torrelio Villa to accept the resignation presented by Jaime Humerez Seleme from his post as minister secretary of press and information of the presidency. He added that he, the minister secretary of the presidency, has been designated acting information minister until a new minister is designated.

Duran Saucedo stated: [Begin Duran Saucedo recording] The president of the republic today received the resignation of Jaime Humerez, former minister of information. In this regard, the president of the republic has designated me as acting information minister, by which act the problem created with the resignation of Humerez Seleme was totally solved.

[Question] Has any other minister presented his resignation?

[Answer] Absolutely not. The work of the ministerial cabinet is absolutely normal, and there are no more resignations. [end recording]

COMIBOL GENERAL MANAGER SUBMITS RESIGNATION

PY041527 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Eng Armando de Urioste, general manager of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL], has submitted his resignation from the post he has held during the last few months, according to what has been learned from sources at the state mining enterprise. Yesterday afternoon engineer De Urioste gathered the COMIBOL administrative staff to say goodbye and express his thanks for the cooperation given to him during his time in office. In the next few hours his successor will be sworn in at the Mines and Metallurgy Ministry. Although there has been no official report on the appointment of the new COMIBOL executive, it was said that Gen (Hernan Ferre Lobo) will be chosen for the post; he is expected to arrive in La Paz from Cochabamba. The new COMIBOL manager will be entrusted with the continuation of the negotiations which are underway with the workers of the state enterprise.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO INCREASE TRADE RELATIONS

PY020225 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Bolivia and Czechoslovakia will try to increase their trade relations in the future, according to remarks made by Czechoslovak Ambassador Stanislav Novotny, at the end of a meeting with Industry and Commerce Minister Lucio Paz Rivero. The Czechoslovak ambassador declined to give further details on the meeting, limiting himself to the following report: [Begin Novotny recording] It was the first meeting with the minister and we talked about the possibilities of increasing trade between Bolivia and our country.

[Question] Is there any specific project?

[Answer] No. There is no specific project yet, and I do not want to suggest anything. We discussed something, but it has to be confirmed and an agreement reached. Then we will give further information to the press and to the radio, because I give you this information ahead of time, then things may not happen as we wanted. [end recording] During the past few years, trade between the two countries have increased greatly, along with the opportunity for Bolivia to export its raw material and for Czechoslovakia to export industrial, agricultural and other kinds of machinery. Ambassador Novotny also reported that during the past administration, these relations greatly decreased. [Begin Novotny recording] Last year, although continuing with our economic relations, our exports and imports dropped, though the trade balance favors Bolivia by almost $6 million. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA

PY031751 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 1 Mar 82 pp 2-3

["Text" of 'interview' granted by Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro -- date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] What are the results of the consultation system that has been established by Brazil and Argentina?

[Answer] The consultation system established by Brazil and Argentina is developing within an atmosphere of mutual trust and it is yielding satisfactory results. The visit that Foreign Minister Costa Mendez will pay to Brazil will give us an excellent opportunity to exchange information and strengthen bilateral ties between our two countries.

[Question] In what areas do you believe our two countries may increase their cooperation programs?

[Answer] Officials from both governments have carried out extensive studies to identify those potential sectors that may contribute to increase our bilateral trade. Among these studies are those carried out in meetings held in Brasilia in February attended by the Argentine under secretary of foreign commerce and the Argentine Foreign Ministry international economic relations under secretary.

In principle we may increase bilateral trade in those sectors that have shown some sluggishness since this shows that there is an industrial and commercial sector that may be better exploited and articulated at the bilateral level.

[Question] What is the present level of trade and what are the future prospects? What are some of the more serious difficulties that hinder this trade?

[Answer] Brazilian-Argentine trade has recently shown an increasing dynamism, amounting, in the last few years, to significant proportions; from about $330 million in 1970 to over $1.8 billion in 1980. Argentina is, therefore, one of Brazil's main commercial partners at the international level. Moreover, within the Latin American integration association Argentina is Brazil's main provider and is the main market for Brazilian exports.

However, despite the high levels that have been achieved, prospects to increase bilateral trade in the future are even better since there are other sectors that may be exploited and other possibilities to complement our national economies. Moreover, the private sectors of our two countries have expressed their desire to increase bilateral relations and have requested the Brazilian and Argentine Governments to undertake new initiatives at the government level to promote contacts between the private sectors of the two countries.

Regarding the second part of your question, we must note that in view of the large scope of interests of our bilateral trade it is only natural for difficulties to arise, but these may be evaluated and overcome on the basis of a frank dialogue that is in keeping with the interests of the parties involved and that tries to avoid the enforcement of discriminatory measures against one country or the other.

Moreover, these problems have been the subject of several meetings attended by proper representatives, and evaluated mainly from a technical point of view in keeping with friendship and cooperation that characterizes Brazilian-Argentine relations.

[Question] What is the status of the negotiations to sell Argentine gas to Brazil?

[Answer] On 20 August 1980 I signed, with my Argentine colleague, an agreement which establishes a joint group made of officials from PETROBRAS and the State Gas Enterprise from Argentina. The specific mission of this joint group is to study viable conditions to sell Argentine natural gas to Brazil. Since then this joint group has held several meetings in this regard.

[Question] What is the present state of the Argentine-Brazilian nuclear complementation program?

[Answer] The Brazilian-Argentine nuclear cooperation program is satisfactory. There are contracts in force between the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), the Brazilian Nuclear Corporation [NUCLEABRAS] and the CNEN [Brazilian National Nuclear Energy Commission].

As is known, these contracts regulate and facilitate nuclear cooperation for peaceful means at two levels: at the scientific and technological level and at the industrial and commercial level.

Regarding the scientific and technological level, we must note the present activities in the training of nuclear experts in both countries and cooperation in the processing of nuclear data.

Regarding cooperation at the industrial and nuclear level, there is an agreement for the use of Argentine technology in processing bulk uranium concentrate. The Argentine-developed yellow cake will be lent to Brazil for manufacturing zircaloy tubes in Brazil. Moreover, NUCLEBRAS, as a subcontractor, will be in charge of the construction of a compression chamber which will be sent to Argentina.

[Question] What is Brazil's position regarding the Polish crisis?

[Answer] Brazil's position regarding the Polish crisis is well known. We view with interest and concern the evolution of the situation in Poland and we regret the sufferings that the Polish people are experiencing. We hope that the social sectors involved may be able to overcome this situation peacefully, shortly, by themselves and without any foreign interference.

[Question] How does Brazil view the crisis in Central America? Do you believe that the war in El Salvador may be internationalized?

[Answer] We believe that the Central American crisis is rooted in structural problems. Therefore, the great and complex problems that affect this region, as well as the majority of the Third World, have to be tackled through a socioeconomic development effort. Although this is no simple process yielding fast results, it offers better prospects in the long term. As for your second question, the Brazilian Government is opposed to foreign interference in El Salvador or in any other sovereign country. We maintain proper relations with the Salvadoran Government. The Salvadoran people should try to solve their own problems within a democratic and pluralist context.

[Question] Periodically there are rumors about the establishment of a south Atlantic defense pact that will include South Africa. What is the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's position in this regard?

[Answer] I believe that it is well known, even among the press, that this idea lacks support. This is to a great extent due to the clear position that countries like Brazil and others on both sides of the Atlantic have taken in this regard. First of all, because the plan does not offer military solutions for the maritime area that must be kept free from international confrontations or tensions, and also because no military cooperation or strategic probram can work with the South African Government.

[Question] Brazil has recently announced an expedition to the Antarctic. What is the Brazilian Government's position regarding the Antarctic? Will there be other countries cooperating in this expedition?

[Answer] Brazil has put in force an Antarctic policy that is in keeping with the spirit and the letter of the Washington treaty, to which it adhered in 1975. It is in compliance with this treaty that Brazil has recently taken important steps to establish the necessary structures with the objective of promoting the main goals of the Antarctic treaty which are: international cooperation for scientific research and the preservation of the area for peaceful purposes.

Since Brazilian participation in the Antarctic is still in the planning stage, it is only studying possible participation with third countries, although this is provided for in the Antarctic treaty. Therefore, Brazilian participation with third countries is very likely.

[Question] Do you believe that the present tension between the superpowers -- the United States and the Soviet Union -- has an impact on developing countries? Does this tension hinder North-South negotiations?

[Answer] Yes it does. The increasing tension between the superpowers is harmful for the entire international community. But because of their frail economic situation developing countries are more vulnerable.

Unfortunately this tension and its inherent rivalry is transferred to the Third World and is frequently a complicating factor in local or regional disputes.

There are many examples of this and they may be found everywhere. However, economic effects are even more obvious. Since more emphasis is given to strategy and power -- even to the nuclear arms race -- the North-South development programs are relegated to second place.

[Question] What is the Brazilian Government's position regarding the annexation of the Golan Heights by Israel?

[Answer] We emphatically condemn this annexation. Brazil has always defended the respect of international rights and it has, therefore, always expressed its opposition to the acquisition of territories by force. Like practically the entire international community, we have harshly condemned this illegal action by Israel since it will only help to deteriorate the complex Middle East situation to the detriment of all the countries in the region.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON PORTUGAL'S GONCALVES VISIT

PY041858 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1230 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Brasilia, 3 Mar (TELAM) -- Portuguese Foreign Minister Andre Goncalves Pereira ruled out today any possibility for Portugal and Brazil to undertake a joint action to achieve peace in the southern part of Africa. In a statement issued shortly before his departure for Sao Paulo, the Portuguese foreign minister said that his country has no direct responsibility in the future of Namibia or any aspirations to get involved in the activity carried out by Western negotiating countries (the United States, the FRG, France, Canada and the UK). Goncalves Pereira, who last night ended his 2-day official visit to Brasilia, explained that since Portugal is one of the few countries that maintains good diplomatic relations with all those nations involved in the Namibian independence process, including South Africa, some international circles believe that Portugal is trying to mediate in the process.

Regarding the security of the south Atlantic, Goncalves Pereira said that this is a concern that is shared by Western European nations and the United States. He noted: With the reopening of the Suez Canal the transportation of merchandise on the south Atlantic route has become less vital, but nevertheless it is of fundamental importance for Atlantic coast countries. He added that relations between the United States and Angola have improved considerably but he said that it would be pretentious to say that Portugal had contributed to this improvement. The joint declaration that he signed with his Brazilian colleague Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro states that Portuguese Prime Minister Francisco Pinto Balsemao will visit Brazil this year in response to an invitation extended by President Joao Figueiredo. The foreign ministers also noted the need to strengthen bilateral ties in all sectors.

OFFICIAL INSISTS MARITIME TERRITORY VIOLATED AGAIN

PY050109 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] The ship Gurruchaga has once again violated Chilean territorial waters. Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ernesto Videla has confirmed that the Argentine ship once again entered the Chilean maritime territory. He categorically denied that Argentina has any navigation right through the zone, or that it is a maritime area subject to the pope's mediation.

Colonel Videla added that Argentine ships are daily entering Chilean waters, clearly violating the norms of international law.

PROPOSED UNITED OPPOSITION FRONT SEEN POSSIBLE

PY021909 Paris AFP in Spanish 2146 GMT 1 Mar 82

[By Enrique J. Fernandez]

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 1 Mar (AFP) -- Numerous observers warned here today that Chile is experiencing a dangerous political and social polarization which last week reached a peak with the murder of an opposition labor leader and which might lead to other violent events. In view of these prospects, representatives of various sectors which were in disagreement until yesterday are now showing themselves willing to form a broad movement of civic action in response to the call made by the labor leader Tucapel Jimenez a few days before he was murdered to fight the liberal economic policy of Gen Augusto Pinochet's government.

Jimenez, a social democrat who headed the government employees and participated in the creation of the Workers Democratic Union (UDT), was found dead on the outskirts of this capital with his throat cut and two bullet wounds in his head. The police and the security services have no specific results yet regarding the identity of the (?murderers), but the possibility that they belong to some ultrarightists commando is not ruled out.

The government has strongly condemned the attack and ordered a thorough investigation, while warning that it would not permit the opposition to make any political use of the incident.

After the funeral of the labor leader which took place on Saturday public statements were, however, made by the Catholic Church, labor leaders and Gen (Ret) Gustavo Leigh, former member of the government junta, regarding the threat of greater division among Chileans.

Leigh who was a member of the junta and air force commander until the middle of 1978 said that no sign can be seen of a reconciliation or rapprochement and that the economic crisis may become so extreme that it leads to social violence.

In turn, Eduardo Rios who leans toward the Christian Democratic Party and is president of the UDT maintained: we have reached a crucial point. We will either have to seek solutions or we will start killing each other, making Chile into another Central America. He added: The Tucapel Jimenez murder is not an isolated action but may rather be the beginning of an escalation. Therefore, all those ready to fight against this are welcome.

A similar concern was shown by Santiago Auxiliary Bishop Jorge Hourton when he asked himslef if the spiral of violence will have to continue after having cost so many innocent lives and told the faithful to pray for the restoration of the moral values.

Leaders of the centrist UDT decided today to seek an alternative road to stop this radicalization process and posthumously preserve the call for unity of the dead leader. The leader Eduardo Rios told AFP: Today we will take the first steps to create the Tucapel Jimenez patriotic front and struggle for the restoration of democracy, justice and freedom in this country.

The leftist national labor Union Coordination Board (CNS) which has acted independently of the UDT until now, supported this initiative and its president, Manuel Bustos, stated that nothing can withstand the overwhelming advance of organized social forces. Bustos added: We are the large majority, now silenced, who have to stand up and march as a single man, because no assassin will stop that march.

The project goes beyond the labor organization and includes both progressive employers and intellectuals, artists, professionals and workers in general, the leaders explained. Employer sectors which in the beginning supported the policy of the military government, such as the truck owners confederation, are now mentioned among the active members of the future opposition front.

In government circles these events have been added to other worries, mainly of an economic nature: The effects of a recession in industry and agriculture: the bankruptcy of numerous companies: an unemployment rate of over 10 percent: and a trade balance deficit which reached $2.6 billion last year.

Former government junta press secretary Federico Willoughby, a staunch supporter of President Pinochet, made a synthesis of that concern today when he asserted that the negative events are accumulating because the irritation among employers and workers is creating a not very healthy atmosphere at the beginning of 1982.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO ROK -- The ROK Government has accepted the designation of Brig Ben Carlos Lopicich Davidson as Chilean ambassador to ROK: [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 19 Feb 82 p 3 PY]

AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA -- The government of the Republic of Venezuela has accepted the appointment of Carlos Alberto de Costa Nora Sepulveda as Chilean ambassador to Venezuela. [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 18 Feb 82 p 3 PY]

AMBASSADORS TO PRC, SWEDEN, AUSTRIA -- The Chilean Foreign Ministry yesterday reported that the governments of PRC, Sweden and Austria have accepted the appointment of the new Chilean ambassadors. The new ambassadors are: Gen Benjamin Agustin Opazo Brull, PRC; Enrique Guzman Serrano, Kingdom of Sweden; and Brig Gen Juan German Hutt Gunther to the Republic of Austria. [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 11 Feb 82 p 4 PY]

PRESIDENTIAL DEFENSE ADVISER -- According to government sources, Lt Gen Carlos Forestier Haengsen was designated yesterday defense adviser to President Augusto Pinochet. [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 11 Feb 82 p 5 PY]

DEFENSE MINISTER ON REPORTS OF U.S. BASES

PA050256 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota -- Defense Minister Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva today hinted at the possibility that the joint defense of America will be negotiated with the U.S. Government. Gen Camacho Leyva, who is on a 2-day visit to Cartagena accompanied by Venezuelan Defense Minister Bernardo Leal Puche, said that if at a specific moment we have to undertake an effort to defend America, we must do so jointly. The defense minister made the statement on being questioned about the truth of reports that the United States is apparently interested in obtaining from Honduras and Colombia facilities for the use of some military bases.

However, contrary to what Gen Camacho Leyva said, Foreign Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds once again reiterated today that there are not and will not be negotiations with the United States to facilitate the construction of those U.S. bases on national territory.

LEMOS DENIES SECRET TALKS ON USE OF AIRPORTS

PA050143 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota -- Foreign Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds has once again responded to a U.S. State Department spokesman who said that the United States is secretly negotiating with Colombia for the use of military airports in the case of an emergency.

Mr Dean Fischer may be the spokesman for the State Department, but I am the spokesman for Colombia's international affairs and that is why I very much lament that I must correct him, Lemos Simmonds said.

The foreign minister said that the Washington POST's reports are nothing more than badly written melodrama. He reiterated that Colombia is not willing to permit any power to use its airports. He said he hopes that his denial will put an end to all the stories that have emerged in the past few days.

However, in Washington, Pentagon spokesmen have insisted on mentioning Colombia and Honduras as the Latin American countries with which the U.S. Government could easily reach an understanding for the application of inter-American mutual defense agreements, such as that of Rio de Janeiro, in case military intervention in the Caribbean and Central American region is needed. Diplomatic sources believe that the reserve of some countries is due to the fact that although they share Washington's concerns over the growing Cuban air power, they do not want to be openly identified or linked with the United States in the case of extreme military measures.

FOREIGN MINISTER STRESSES DANGERS IN CARIBBEAN

PA050250 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota -- Foreign Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds today said that the Caribbean area is in imminent danger of becoming the closed lake of a foreign power. He made the statement during an event in honor of Dominican Prime Minister Eugenia Charles in the San Carlos Palace.

The foreign minister said that there is no place in the Caribbean Basin where the freedom we achieved with blood and the democracy we built after lengthy and [words indistinct] is not in danger.

Lemos Simmonds referred to U.S. Government statements about the possibility of establishing military bases (?in the region). He said that the United States has recognized that it has to do something soon so that our sea will not be turned into a boiling caldron of hatred promoted by hunger, the lack of hope and inequality.

NEWSPAPER LAUDS VISITS OF U.S. OFFICIALS

PY041204 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 3 Mar 82 p 5

[Editorial: "Diplomatic Offensive"]

[Text] The chairman of the Inter-American Defense Board is visiting our country. Not long ago, the deputy chief of the U.S. Army General Staff was also here. And the forthcoming visit of Mr Enders, Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs, to our country has also been announced. All these visits, carried out in a very short period of time, although they are not very frequent, reflect the existence of situations which demand broad consultations and consensus within the inter-American system.

One does not need to very bright to realize that all this is related to the critical situation El Salvador is facing at this moment, and to the deplorable results of a policy which has thrown Nicaragua into the hands of a regrettable totalitarianism. Moreover, reports coming from the Central American isthmus reveal that there is a strong insurgent movement in Guatemala as well; Hondruas cannot rid itself of similiar, though less serious, situations; and Costa Rica is facing one of the most serious economic crisis of its recent history.

All this tells us, naturally, that there are problems. These problems nowadays cannot be solved as they were a half century ago with the implementation of the "big stick policy" [given in English].

Moreover, the Caribbean is just one of the geopolitical foci of great tension in the world. Several shipping lanes transit that area; control over the area offers strategic advantages of great significance for whomever establishes himself there. It would be useless, however, to pretend ignorance of the absolutely decisive effects which the consolidation of communism in Central America would have. In fact, these effects would reflect the break-up of the inter-American system as it was established and affirmed in the OAS Charter, in which the American nations committed themselves to struggle for the implementation of maintenance of democracy in the continent.

The need is obvious, then, for this difficult issue to be discussed, as in the past at the levels at which it is being handled now. But neither can one ignore the need to state very explicitly the political action that may result from these contacts to elicit support from the will of the free men of the continent.

The positive points finally emerge out of these events: On the one hand, the verification that the decisions the inter-American system may make will be the result of consensus and not of unilateral action; and on the other hand, that you will find out who your real friends are when the chips are down. And these friends are not granted the appropriate respect the firmness of their position deserves.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON TAIWAN'S CHU FU-SUNG VISIT

Joint Declaration Signed

PY050200 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Mar 82 p 10

["Text" of Paraguayan Taiwanese joint declaration signed by Foreign Ministers Alberto Nogues and Chu Fu-sung in Asuncion on 3 March 1982]

[Text] At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Paraguay, the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of China, His Excellency Chu Fu-sung and his most honorable wife and other persons in his delegation made an official visit to the Republic of Paraguay, from 28 Febuary to 4 March 1982. During his visit, the ROC foreign minister was received in a special audience by his excellency the president of Paraguay, General of the Army Alfredo Stroessner, with whom he held a cordial meeting, during which they expressed the feelings of friendship which unite the two countries.

Accompanied by his delegation, Minister Chu Fu-sung had the opportunity to visit the resident Chinese community in Asuncion and Ciudad Presidente Stroessner, and also to make an inspection visit of the development of programs prepared by the ROC technical agricultural mission in San Lorenzo and Caacupe.

The tour to the great hydroelectric complex of Itaipu was a subject of special interest on the agenda of the visitors, who had an opportunity to appraise the magnitude and the degree of development of that undertaking.

The Paraguayan and ROC foreign ministers reviewed subjects of mutual interest to the two countries, exchanging constructive opinions on their relations, both in the bilateral and multilateral fields.

They paid special attention to the aspects related to strengthening the defense of the free world countries in view of the threat of international communism, whose acts of violence and subversion were firmly condemned.

With a view to strengthening the economic relations between the two countries, the minister decided -- according to negotiations carried out previously -- to sign an agreement as soon as possible on a loan agreement between the Republic of Paraguay and the Republic of China through thier respective central banks.

Minister Chu Fu-sung praised the current economic and social situation in the country under the illustrious government of President Stroessner, and expressed his gratitude for the attentions bestowed upon him, and especially for the honorable decoration of the national order of merit which recalls through the memory of its creator, Marshal Francisco Solano Lopez, the highest virtues of Paraguayan heroism.

Minister Chu Fu-sung also expressed thanks for the hospitality and courtesy bestowed upon himself, his wife and members of his delegation.

The Paraguayan foreign minister stressed the significance and very positive connotations of the visit of his excellency the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of China and of the distinguished personalities who accompanied him, as a valuable contribution to strengthening the fraternal and firm friendship existing between Paraguay and the Republic of China.

Departure Report

PY041935 [Editorial Report] Asuncion Teledifusora Paraguaya Televisora in Spanish 1530 GMT 4 March 1982 carries an 11-minute report on a reception which Taiwanese Foreign Minister Chu Fu-sung held at the Taiwanese Embassy on the morning of 4 March in honor the Paraguayan national authorities and which was also attended by President Alfredo Stroessner. The report points out that Minister Chu on this occasion decorated Paraguayan Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro, the president's private secretary Mario Abdo Benitez, Foreign Relations Ministry Secretaries Rodney Elpidio Acevedo and Francisco Barreiro Maffiodo, military aide-de-camp and chief of the military housefold Maj Gen Guillermo Clebsh and Foreign Relations Ministry Protocol Director Julio Pena.

Parts of a speech delivered on this occasion by Minister Chu in which he thanks President Stroessner for attending the reception and points out his honor in decorating Paraguayan authorities as a proof of the friendship between the two nations is given in translation. Foreign Minister Chu is shown speaking beside Interior Minister Augusto Montanaro with a picture of Chiang Kai-shek in the background. The wife of the Taiwanese foreign minister is shown standing to the right of President Stroessner. There is then a close-up of private secretary Mario Abdo Benitez being decorated by Minister Chu, followed by shots of the decoration of Maj Gen Guillermo Clebsh and others.

Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro gives a reply speech thanking the Taiwanese authorities for the decorations which are a proof fo the friendship ties between Taiwan and Paraguay and their desire to cooperate despite the distance which separates them. He then points out the important role which the government of President Stroessner with the full support of the armed forces is playing in Paraguayan history. At this point the camera shows medium-range shots of persons attending the ceremony. From left to right are Mario Abdo Benitez, Maj Gen Guillermo Clebsh, Rodney Elpidio Acevedo, Francisco Barreiro Maffiodo, Julio Pena, an unidentified Taiwanese official, Juan Ramon Chavez, Mrs Chu, President Stroessner, Apostolic Nuncio Josef Mees, Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues, Industry and Commerce Minister Delfin Ugarte Centurion, Public Works Minister Juan Antonio Caceres and National University Dean Dionisio Gonzalez Torres. Following the end of the interior minister's speech close ups are shown of authorities and other guests leaving.

A 3-minute film clip is then carried of Chu Fu-Sung's press conference later the same morning. Throughout the conference the camera shows close-ups of Foreign Minister Chu and other persons attending the conference. Minister Chu states that the agreements reached mostly deal with technical cooperation in the agriculture sector and cooperation for industrial development, and that the general plan is to encourage Taiwanese businessmen to invest in Paraguay. Answering a question as whether or not his visit was aimed at obtaining Paraguayan support vis-a-vis the PRC, Minister Chu states: "In the joint communique it is clearly stated that we have identical ideologies, identical principles, that we struggle for the same ideals and that we are two firmly anti-communist countries."

The report ends with a 4-minute clip of Minister Chu and his wife saying farewell to local authorities at the Asuncion Airport in mid-morning at the end of his visit. After saying farewell to the industry and commerce minister, Chu is seen shaking hands with other government officials, officers and Taiwanese authorities, reviewing troops and shaking hands with General Clebsh, Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro, Foreign Minister Nogues and his wife inside the airport building.

POLICE ARREST COLORADO EXILE IN ASUNCION 19 FEB

PY042125 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 3 Mar 82 p 22

[Text] In a telephone call made to this newspaper from Buenos Aires, Mariano Caceres has reported that his cousin Bienvenido Caceres was arrested by policemen in Asuncion on 19 February as he was returning to Argentina via Puerto Falcon with his wife and two children. Bienvenido Caceres had travelled to Paraguay to visit his mother, who lives in Ybicui. and had arrived in Asuncion on 5 February. Mariano Caceres pointed out that he and his cousin are members of the Colorado Party and that both of them are exiled to Argentina. He also made it clear that neither of them is a member of MOPOCO [Colorado Popular Movement].

Asked about the alleged arrest of Bienvenido Caceres, 46, police officer Gustavo Gimenez yesterday morning said: "Yes, he is under arrest for questioning."

BRIEFS

NEW RADIO STATION PLANNED -- A new radio station will be set up in San Ignacio, Misiones Department. The station, named Arapizandu, will belong to Hector Bottino and will cost 126,245,000 quaranies. [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 10 Feb 82 p 8 PY]

NATIONAL CENSUS IN JULY -- Jose Diaz de Bedoya, director of the Finance Ministry Statistics and Census Department, disclosed yesterday that the National census on population and housing will be carried out in July. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 9 Feb 82 p 10 PY]

ZAMBRANO LEAVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO ITALY

PA021442 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2103 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Caracas, 1 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco will pay an official visit to Italy from 3 to 5 March to inform Italian Government officials and political leaders of Venezuela's attitude toward the situation in Central America and the Caribbean.

Zambrano left for Italy this morning via New York and Paris. He is accompanied by Christian Democratic Deputy Jose Rodriguez Iturbe, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Policy Committee, (CARE).

Foreign Ministry sources said that Zambrano will discuss matters related to bilateral cooperation and a probable official visit to Italy by President Luis Herrera Campins.

Before starting his journey, Zambrano said that his visit to Italy is for the purpose of "exchanging points of view on critical aspects of today's international situation," among which he gave special emphasis to the Central American situation.

INTERIOR MINISTER RESIGNS TO RUN FOR PRESIDENCY

PA041838 Paris AFP in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Valencia, Venezuela, 4 Mar (AFP) -- Interior Minister Rafael Andres Montes de Oca resigned today from his post to join the race for the presidential nomination of his party, the Social Christian Party, COPEI.

Montes de Oca made the announcement after inaugurating a meeting of governors of this Venezuelan central region. He said he had already informed President Luis Herrera Campins of his decision. The resignation will become effective Monday. Montes de Oca plans to compete for his party's nomination with Rafael Caldera, COPEI's founder and former president of Venezuela during the constitutional term of 1969-1973.

The Venezuelan elections will be held in December next year.

CHAMORRO OF MANAGUA'S LA PRENSA ON PRESS FREEDOM

PA021444 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0042 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] Caracas, 1 Mar (EFE) -- Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, director of Nicaragua's LA PRENSA, has said in this city that his daily is operating "in a more or less stable climate although not in complete freedom." Chamorro was invited to Caracas by businessmen of the Venezuelan news media. He will remain in this city until Wednesday.

Chamorro spoke briefly about the political situation in his country. He spoke more specifically about freedom of the press. Regarding LA PRENSA, he said: "At this moment we have a relative calm. We have gone through some periods when we have been the victims of very strong attacks by the entire state apparatus."

Chamorro said that the threats to close the paper have been continuous, but noted that LA PRENSA is currently functioning in a more or less stable climate, although not in complete freedom.

Chamorro spoke about a "news media law" that is about to be approved by the Nicaraguan State Council, 90 percent of which is composed, according to him, by Sandinist militants.

The director of LA PRENSA said that that bill will soon be analyzed by news media businessmen and "an environment of strong criticism is already noticeable."

While in Caracas, Chamorro will participate in a news conference to be held by President Luis Herrera Campins. He said that he attended the conference as a working journalist to get firsthand knowledge of how the Venezuelan news media functions.

LOPEZ PORTILLO VIEWS CRISIS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

PM031505 Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Feb 82 pp 1, 3

[Francois Pisano interview with Mexican President Lopez Portillo: "Chances of Detente Worsening in Central America" -- date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] What do you think of Mr Reagan's speech?

[Answer] I would first like to stress its positive aspects. The world's most highly industrialized country has very clearly understood that the southern countries' problems, which are reflected in political crises, have social causes whose origin is economic. If one wants to resolve them one must attack them at the root, which is the nature of North-South trade. The U.S. plan contributes to a global solution, which is what we sought at the Cancun conference, for instance.

Having said that, I do not approve of the discriminatory nature of the aid, that is, the exclusion for ideological reasons of several countries of the region. It would have been prefereable to find a formula that, on the contrary, made it possible to generalize the aid. Nor do I agree that part of the aid should be in armaments.

[Question] Do you intend to cooperate with this plan in one form or another?

[Answer] We have been doing so for some time, in accordance with our principles. Our aid has taken specific form in the San Jose accord on oil supplies to the countries of the region. It is a particularly demanding commitment for Mexico, because we will do our utmost in this field without setting any political conditions and without attaching any arms aid program to it.

[Question] What do you think of the reactions prompted by your speech in Managua?

[Answer] The fact the President Reagan had already decided the content of his speech to the OAS prevented a formal reaction from the White House. Since we have decided to inform each other of our initiatives with respect to the region, we were informed in good time of the texts of our respective speeches. I believe that these matters will be broached at an imminent meeting at the United Nations between Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Casteneda and Gen Alexander Haig. I expect positive reactions likely to attenuate the tensions.

[Question] What chances of success do you give your peace proposals?

[Answer] They are not as good as they were Tuesday, inasmuch as President Reagan was very tough on Cuba and Nicaragua. Detente's chances are deteriorating. Nevertheless, I will continue to stress that we much reach a dialogue and then negotiations.

[Question] In your opinion, how could the crisis in Central America and the Caribbean evolve?

[Answer] If we achieve a relaxation in relations between the United States and Cuba and negotiations between them, the other problems will resolve themselves.

[Question] What is your opinion of the letter sent to you by Fidel Castro following your speech?

[Answer] It shows that the Cuban head of state has understood my intentions. It confirms that Cuba is willing to move on from dialogue to negotiation.

[Question] What was the Sandinists' reaction when you called on them to reduce their military strength if the situation permits?

[Answer] They do not reject such a possibility. But of course they are afraid of finding themselves once more lacking in defense capability in the event of a military escalation. I believe that we can prevent such an eventuality and we undertake to do so. I am sure that if serious negotiations took place it would be possible to lower Nicaragua's military strength to an acceptable level.

[Question] Why have you spoken out against France's arms sales to Nicaragua?

[Answer] I wished to preserve Mexico's right to protest whenever arms are sent to Central America in the situation that it is experiencing now. If we reproach the United States, Cuba or the Soviet Union for something, then we must do the same with our beloved France. One must be consistent.

[Question] Some U.S. commentators believe they discerned in your recent statements that you were backtracking from the French-Mexican declaration on El Salvador, which recognized the Revolutionary Democratic Front and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front as representative political forces. Is this true?

[Answer] U.S. public opinion is sometimes mistaken when it supposes that Mexico and France regard the two fronts as representatives of the entire Salvadoran people. In fact, they represent the forces struggling against the junta. I still believe that to find a political solution in El Salvador we must transform the conflicting forces into the protagonists of negotiation.

[Question] You have said: "Between an election without negotiation and negotiations without an election there must be a middle course." Does that mean that you want an election more than negotiations? And in what order?

[Answer] It is difficult to imagine that an election can take place while the guerrilla warfare and confrontation are continuing. We believe that, prior to the election, it is necessary to reach what I call a "constituent agreement," guaranteeing the genuiness of the electoral process.

[Question] Why has Mexico not adopted the same stance on Guatemala as on Nicaragua and El Salvador?

[Answer] It is a matter of different situations.

[Question] Do you take seriously the possibility of a massive U.S. military intervention in the region?

[Answer] I refuse to imagine it. At the time of my talks with the U.S. authorities -- in particular with Mr Haig -- I said that, in my opinion, we should put an end to the war and verbal terrorism. That is why I do not wish to contemplate that possibility.

[Question] There is strong opposition among the U.S. public to any attempt at massive intervention in the region, which seems to be due to the memory of the Vietnam war. What is your opinion of the saying: "Maybe El Salvador is not Vietnam, but Central America could be worse"?

[Answer] Any intervention by a big power, whatever it is, in a weak country is, in my opinion, a grave historical mistake. Vietnam had a sanctuary. This region has none. It would be totally crushed, but this would be far from beneficial for the United States.

[Question] Why does Mexico have good relations with Marxist regimes, including in the region?

[Answer] Because we believe in the principle of self-determination of peoples. Because we have marvelous relations, without the slightest problem, with a Marxist country such as Cuba.

If we accept that our society is pluralist, we should accept that the world is pluralist. And if the world is pluralist, we should be tolerant toward each other. Who is right? Everybody has his reasons. What could be more natural than that there should be communists and capitalists, Muslims and Christians, or whoever else?

I am not afraid because Cuba is communist. On the other hand, I fear countries which seek to export their ideology (whatever it be) and which wish to intervene here, thus violating the peoples' right to self-determination. That is what I condemn.

FOREIGN SECRETARY TO MEET WITH HAIG 14 MAR

FL031930 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1818 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Jorge Castaneda will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig in New York on 14 March, the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat has announced. The two officials will hold talks on the basic points of the peace plan for Central America and the Caribbean proposed by President Jose Lopez Portillo in Nicaragua last 21 February.

Foreign Secretary Castaneda will attend from 6 to 15 March the 10th session of the International Conference on the Law of the Sea which will be held at the United Nations. He will also meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and will explain to him the Mexican position regarding peace in Central America, the Foreign Relations Secretariat added.

DIRECTOR SAYS PEMEX ECONOMIC POSITION 'HEALTHY'

FL022040 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1525 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The director general of Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) has reported that the economic position of the state enterprise is healthy and that its profits are sufficient, not only to cover its own growth, but also to make a significant contribution to the country through its taxes since it pays the national treasury an average of 51 percent of its sales [as received]. Julio Rodolfo Moctezuma Cid added that PEMEX's investments and operating expenses represent 79 percent of its income from domestic and export sales and it earns 21 percent in profits before taxes, which in 1981 totalled 245 billion pesos.

PEMEX's foreign debt is $20 billion and its 1982 projected sales will be around $18 billion, a figure which reflects it ability to pay, added Moctezuma Cid. He also said that the balance of payments is favorable to the institution, of each dollar that comes into the country from PEMEX foreign sales, 15 cents goes for acquiring equipment and machinery and for paying the interest on its debts. He said that Mexico continues to sell its export crude at a volume of 50 percent type "Itsmo" light 32 degrees api and 50 percent type "Yaya" 22 degrees api.

The director of PEMEX said that export operations are improving. In February an average 1.2 million barrels per day were exported which means that the amount of foreign currency entering the country is increasing. "In the month of April we may be able to export 1.5 million barrels [per day]," the official said. The countries with which we have contracts to supply crude are: the United States, Canada, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Jamaica, Brazil, Uruguay, England, Spain, Italy, France, Israel, Japan, South Korea and the Philippines.

OFFICIAL SAYS PANAMA WILL NOT JOIN COMMUNITY

PA031717 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Mar 82 p 4-A

[From the "Names and Events" column]

[Text] Presidential Adviser Marcel Salamin has said that Panama will not join the "Central American Democratic Community" [CDC] BECAUSE IT DOES NOT SHARE THE POLITICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL PLATFORM CONTAINED IN THE COMMUNITY'S CHARTER. [capitals denote boldface as published] This was reported by AP in a dispatch from San Jose, Costa Rica.

PARTY TO SEND OBSERVERS TO SALVADORAN ELECTIONS

PA050300 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Mar 82 pp 44, D-8

[Excerpt] At a meeting of its political committee, the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party (PDC) decided to send party Vice Presidents Dr Carlos Arellano Lennox and Guillermo Cochez Jr to act as observers in the elections for 60 Salvadoran citizens to form a constituent assembly that will draft the new constitution for El Salvador. The Panamanian PDC has often expressed its solidarity with the people of El Salvador and the Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party headed by Napoleon Duarte.

NATIONAL GUARD ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL CHANGES

PA042258 Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 2145 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Report by (Joaquin Maison) from the Panamanian National Guard Public Relations and Information Directorate]

[Text] Within the routine process of movement by personnel of the National Guard, the command and staff of the National Guard announced this afternoon the following retirements, promotions and transfers:

Retired and placed on reserve status: Maj Pacifico Saavedra, Maj Tomas A. Douglas, Maj German Torres, Maj Alejandro Francis.

Promotions to National Guard major: Capt Arturo Jimenez, Capt Luis C. Samudio, Capt Augusto Villalaz, Capt Roberto Perez.

Transfers: Maj Bernardo Barrera from the police corps to the 4th Military Zone in Herrera as chief; Maj Roberto Perez from the 4th Urraca Riflemen's Company to Staff Headquarters; Maj Alfredo Remon from the Communications Department to the 6th Military Zone in Cocle as chief; Maj Luis C. Samudio from the Immigration Directorate to the 3rd Military Zone in Veraguas as chief; Maj Wildord Nipples from the Tigres de Tinajita 1st Riflemen's Company to the 10th Military Zone in Chorrera as chief; Maj Pedro Damasdo Cedeno from the 10th Military Zone in Chorrera to the General Command; Maj Julio Ow Young from the Combined Board to the Communications Department; Capt Arnulfo Castrejon from the 8th Military Zone in Bocas del Toro to 9th Military Zone in Darien; Capt Jose Maria Serrano from Staff Headquarters to the General Command as aide of the commander in chief; Capt Eduardo Gutierrez of the assistant chief's office of the National Guard G-3 Staff to the 4th Urraca Riflemen's Company as chief; Capt Federico Olechea from the 2d Military Zone in Colon to the Tigres de Tinajita 1st Riflemen's Company as chief; Lt Ofilio Reyes from the Police Academy to the General Command; Lt Felipe Camargo from the assistant chief's office of the National Guard G-2 Staff to the 2d Military Zone in Colon; and 2d Lt Odiseas Pilides from the assistant chief's office of the National Guard G-2 to assistant chief's office of the National Guard G-5 staff.

PAPER PRINTS DECREES ON RETIREMENTS, PROMOTIONS

PA041918 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Mar 82 pp A-1, A-10

[capitals denote upper case as published]

[Text] DECREE NUMBER 20

(3 March 1982)

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC exercising his legal powers, CONSIDERING:

That Col Florencio Florez Aguilar, commander in chief of the Naitonal Guard, has completed 26 years and 7 months of continuous service to that institution;

That Lt Col Armando Bellido, G-4 of the National Guard General Staff, has completed 30 years and 9 months of continuous service to that institution;

That Lt Col Manuel de J. Arauz, national traffic director, has completed 25 years and 5 months continuous service in that institution;

That under the existing law, the previously mentioned military personnel are entitled to retirement in view of their years of service;

That it is the prerogative of the executive branch, pursuant to paragraph 1, Article 164 of the constitution, "to appoint the chiefs and officers of the public forces in accordance with the constitution, the law and military hierarchy;'

That replacements and transfers within the National Guard must be effected according to military hierarchy.

DECREES:

ARTICLE ONE: As of today, Col Florencio Florez Aguilar, and Lt Colonels Armando Bellido and Manuel de J. Arauz will retire.

ARTICLE TWO: The acknowledgement of the loyal and efficient service given to the nation by the abovementioned high-ranking officials.

ARTICLE THREE: The promotion of Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes to the post of commander in chief of the National Guard.

TO BE COMMUNICATED AND PUBLISHED

Issued in Panama on 3 March 1982.
[Signed] Aristides Royo
President of the Republic
[Signed] Jorge Eduardo Ritter
Minister of government and justice

DECREE NUMBER 21

(3 March 1982)

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

(in use of his legal powers)

DECREES

SOLE ARTICLE Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes is promoted to the post of commander in chief of the National Guard with the rank of colonel.

TO BE COMMUNICATED AND PUBLISHED

[Date] Issued in the City of Panama on 3 March 1982.
[Signed] Aristides Royo
President of the republic
[Signed] Jorge Eduardo Ritter
Minister of Government and justice

LT COL MANUEL ARAUZ SPEAKS ABOUT RETIREMENT

PA050400 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Lt Col Cecilio Fisher, who was appointed new director of traffic and land transportation yesterday, took over the command of that office today in a ceremony that was attended by Lt Col Armando Contreras, chief of staff of the National Guard. Fisher received the command banner from the chief of the staff in the presence of Lt Col Manuel de J. Arauz, who has retired. After a speech by Lt Col Armando Contreras, who stressed the brilliant service rendered to the national guard for more than 25 years by the former national traffic director, Lt Col Manuel Arauz said the following:

[Begin recording] In life, one is born, grows and dies. In the life of each man within his practical development, one begins a job, one develops in the job, some in a good way, others in a bad way, but one reaches the end of a career. This is what I am experiencing right now. I am telling you this because you need to know that this is inexorable law of life. We all have to go sometime. No one is everlasting. While we are doing our job we must be loyal and devoted to our work. More than anything I am telling you this because at the institutional level you are loyal men, loyal to our commander in chief, Col Ruben Dario Paredes, and you should not let yourselves be politically surprised in the street. Those who let themselves be politically surprised are those who want to be. My family and I knew about this [his retirement] 2 months ago. I was prepared and was notified of this. [end recording]

BRIEFS

BOLIVIAN ENVOY'S CREDENTIALS -- Jaime Cespedes Toro, the new Bolivian ambassador to Panama, presented his credentials to Panamanian President Aristides Royo in a brief ceremony on 1 March 1982. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 2 Mar 82 p 5-B PA]

REGIONAL CHANGE OF COMMAND -- Maj Aristides Hassan was recently appointed new chief of the Eighth Military Zone, Bocas del Toro, replacing Maj Osvaldo Eraso, who was appointed to another position within the National Guard. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 2 Mar 82 p 10-A PA]

COSTA RICA

RADIO RELOJ ANNOUNCES FREQUENCY CHANGE PLANS

PA191515 San Jose Radio Reloj 0100 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Radio Reloj's frequency, as well as the frequencies of other radio stations, will change at 1300 on 25 February, the deputy minister of government has announced. Radio Reloj operates on 700 kHz and will now operate on 730 kHz in accordance with a Ministry of Government decree. The change in frequencies is designed to allow two new radio stations to go on the air, Deputy Minister of Government (Harry Volstein Rubinstein) added.

[San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 19 February adds that "Radio Reloj will continue transmitting on its 700 kHz frequency until March. None of the low frequency radio stations will be able to change channels due to the lack of radio crystals. They were ordered from a U.S. firm but the shipment was sent to the wrong destination. The Government Ministry announced yesterday that all radio stations in the country would change their frequencies this coming Monday, but today it was announced that this will not be possible because the crystals will not arrive until March."]

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE SAYS NOTHING CAN PREVENT ELECTIONS

PA032122 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0754 GMT 3 Mar 82

[By Orlando Lizama]

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Salvadoran Government has begun an intense campaign to promote the constituent elections called for this month as a solution to the undeclared 2-year-long civil war. Speaking at a rally in the port of La Libertad, 20 km south of this capital, President Jose Napoleon Duarte said that the existing climate is sufficient to ensure the legitimacy of the 28 March voting. The election of 66 members of a constituent assembly "signifies peace...and an end to violence," Duarte stated.

"I will relay the significance of this poll to all corners of the globe," he added. "We must all vote to show that we want peace and democracy," the president stressed.

According to human rights sources, some 30,000 persons have been killed in the more than 2 and 1/2 years of struggle in the country between the armed forces and the leftwing guerrillas, who are intent on overthrowing the civil-military junta, which governs with U.S. support.

"This does not mean we will go to the elections under perfect circumstances; the elections are only a means for the people to resolve this problem of violence," Duarte indicated. The leftwing opposition has said that the necessary conditions for fair elections do not exist under the existing state of siege and the permanent state of violence.

Six parties, including the official Christian Democratic Party, have registered for the elections to choose the 60 [as received] members of a constituent assembly, which will be in charge of structuring this country's democratic future.

"Six months ago no one would have believed that elections were possible, but now I believe that there is no force capable of preventing us from going to the elections," he told those present at the impromptu press conference. The struggle in the country has taken place in the surroundings of Cerro Guazapa, a mountainous region which has served as a hideout for the leftwing guerrillas for 2 years.

The rightwing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) has accused Duarte of acting to promote the government party's candidacy. "This in no way involves a Christian Democratic campaign. This is a campaign for democracy. This is an effort by the government to promote the elections," Ramon Avalos Navarrette, member of the government junta, stated.

AFP: GOVERNMENT FORCES END MAJOR GUERRILLA PUSH

NC040829 Paris AFP in English 0803 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Suchitoto, El Salvador, 4 Mar 82 (AFP) -- Some 2,000 Salvadoran Government forces were returning to the capital today after three days of violent fighting ended a major guerrilla operation in the Guazapa region north of the capital San Salvador. A further 1,000 soldiers were also to be gradually withdrawn from the region, while the slopes of the Guazapa volcano, where the insurgents were seeking shelter, were reported to have set ablaze by the army.

"The guerrillas have retreated permanently," the colonel in charge of the operation said. He added that he had wanted to leave 400 men in the area, but was over-ruled by the chiefs-of-staff.

Large quantities of material were recovered in the rebel camps in the region captured by his troops, the colonel said, including Chinese-made rocket launchers, Belgian rifles and U.S.-made machineguns. Meanwhile the chiefs-of-staff announced the discovery of an arsenal of 1,000 weapons, but gave no details. Newsmen in the region also reported seeing the bodies of a score of guerrillas killed by bullets dumped in trenches.

FMLN DENIES WOUNDING D'AUBUISSON IN ATTACK

PA041352 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] In relation to the attack in which murderer Roberto d'Aubuisson was wounded, the FMLN wants to make clear:

1. That on Saturday, 27 February, FMLN forces in San Vicente ambushed this criminal's group, but he was able to escape unhurt.

2. That the previously mentioned Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson was able to travel by helicopter to Ilopango airport.

3. That when he was leaving that airport, he was again ambushed. This time he was wounded. The FMLN, however, had no part in this second attack.

4. That as result of the confusion produced by the two actions on the same day, Radio Venceremos initially read an international dispatch charging us with the action, which we now explain and deny. The FMLN had nothing to do with the airport attack on murderer Roberto d'Aubuisson and we do not know who was responsible.

GUATEMALA

CASTILLO VALDEZ SEES NO HARM IN HAIG STATEMENT

PA041841 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0037 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemalan Foreign Relations Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez said today that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig did not speak ill of Guatemala last week in Washington. The Guatemalan foreign minister referred to the statement Haig made to U.S. newsmen on 27 February during which he allegedly criticized Guatemala for violating human rights. Castillo Valdez immediately asked U.S. Ambassador Frederic Chapin for the full text of Haig's statement.

Guatemalan political circles felt Haig had criticized Guatemala by asking its government to exert greater control on political violence. However, Castillo opted to ask for the official version before issuing an opinion. He received it this morning and said after reviewing it that "the statements were distorted and there was no attack against Guatemala."

PRESIDENT LUCAS DISCUSSES ELECTIONS WITH PRESS

PA050230 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Statement by Guatemalan President Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia to local and foreign newsmen on 4 March at the Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise building in Guatemala City -- live]

[Excerpts] I have done everything possible during the 4 years I have been in power to provide for the people's health, social welfare and education. We have built up the infrastructure in order to facilitate the transportation of our products from different parts of the country to ports from where they can be exported. I am highly satisfied with what I have accomplished. I feel I have done my duty. The Guatemalans and representatives of friendly countries who are present here know what is the true situation in Guatemala. You, gentlemen of the foreign press, will get to know about it during your stay here.

As I said, I am satisfied with what I have accomplished and this has contributed to my decision to retire quietly at the end of my term to my new post in the army until my retirement. Though I am not old enough to retire, I will be ready when the times come.

Representatives of active sectors of the population and of countries accredited here and members of the international press, I am here today to assure you that I do not intend to mar all that has been done during my administration. I do not intend to show any preference for anyone in the electoral process. I categorically assure you, since this is going to go on television locally and abroad, that here in Guatemala we are going to see that elections are free, clean and pure.

When I retire I do not wish to continue participating in politics as leader of any party. I am leaving quietly, satisfied with what I have accomplished. I do not want anyone saying that my government was biased. That is why I have invited you here, so that you can see for yourselves that these elections are going to be clean and pure. In this way we will prove to the world that the elections in Guatemala were free. For this simple reason, which is very important to my government, I have centralized all information sources here in the Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise, GUATEL, building. Reports from throughout the country will be received here. Reports that will be given to all local and foreign newsmen. This information will also be available to representatives of foreign countries who wish to have it. There will be communications facilities here in the capital and the rest of the country. The rumors that traffic would be restricted from one department to another are unfounded.

The party representatives should be at the polls to receive the ballots and count them. All this should be put down in the records and when the voting is over, all irregularities that have taken place should be noted in the official records in the presence of other party representatives. This should prevent any reason for complaints of fraud. If anything should go wrong, the party representatives should express their grievances. But they know what to do; they have experience in these matters.

I repeat, I do not have any personal interest in any of the candidates. As I have said before, I will hand over power to whoever wins the elections. Personally, I have no interest in continuing in politics. When my term is over, I will be back in the army as a reservist. To me, my country's interests come before anything else. I want everyone to know that in Guatemala we have a democracy. Many people know that we enjoy freedom here.

However many have taken advantage of this situation and have abused the freedom we have. Guatemalans are used to their freedom and you cannot take it away from them just like that and I am not the one to do it. I respect the traditions of the Guatemalans for the freedom of expression. My government is not going to take away the gains obtained by the Guatemalans such as the freedom of expression, of the press and of movement -- freedoms that many countries would like to have.

If any party is not satisfied with the results of the elections and resorts to capricious and obstinate reasons, we will have to put them in their place. You can be sure that we are trying to hold free elections and that everything is being handled in the open, so that no one can say that elections were shady. The army will act to maintain public order. We are in no condition to condone public disorders. The nation's security comes first. There are people waiting to take advantage of any disorder and this does not benefit the country in any way. We have the security forces to take care of those that try to disturb public order.

Look, the Guatemalan Army has taken all the necessary measures, but subversion is active in the shadows. We, therefore, do not know how the subversives are going to react. If we knew we would be right there where they are, but since we do not know, we must be on the alert, waiting to see where they are going to show up. The subversives appear in many disguises. It is hard to say that the subversives are not going to try to create problems. They are going to try, they have said it.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF U.S. BASES PLANS

PA042354 Tegucigalpa Voz de Hondura Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Referring to supposed secret negotiations between the Honduran and U.S. Governments for the installation of military airports, Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica denied having any information concerning a U.S. Government request for permission to build a military base in the southern sector of the country. He therefore refused to make any comment in that respect. The attitude of the Honduran foreign minister [word indistinct] with that adopted by his Colombian colleague, Carlos Lemos Simmonds, who said his country would not permit the installation of military bases by any foreign power.

The report added that the Honduran Defense Ministry refused to supply any information concerning the alleged secret negotiations between representatives of the Reagan administration and the Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova government.

Meanwhile, U.S. official sources confirmed the U.S. Government's plan to invest $22 million to increase and improve the military installations in order to be used in the case of a regional emergency.

Honduran authorities besides Paz Barnica have so far remained silent on the issue, which has been amply discussed by the nation's political and social circles because it reflects the U.S. Government's concern in view of the active presence of the USSR and Cuba in the Central American area.

CONGRESS CHAIRMAN ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON U.S. SHIP

PA042130 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Mar 82 p 21

[Text] "The Honduran National Congress has not granted authority for the stationing of the U.S. Destroyer Caron in the waters of the Gulf of Fonseca because Congress does not even have official knowledge about it," [Congress] Chairman (Efrain M. Bugiron) said yesterday. "In any event, Honduras' foreign policy is handled by the executive branch through the Foreign Affairs Secretariat," (Bugiron) said in answer to a question.

When asked what the National Congress can do if the executive branch fails to request permission for the ship to stay in Honduran waters, (Bugiron) answered that "the executive branch is the one in charge of guarding Honduras's security and reporting to us whenever it is appropriate in order for Congress to adopt the appropriate legal measures."

When asked if Congress can take official steps (Bugiron) said that "all Hondurans are dutybound to defend Honduras' sovereignty whenever there is evidence to do so but we cannot take a priori action or act precipitously. We have to get the information first through the appropriate channels."

Bearing in mind that the consitution of the republic provides in Article 205, paragraph 21 that it is the duty of Congress "to appoint special commissions to investigate matters of national interest," we asked (Bugiron) if the legislative branch will investigate this. He answered that "it behooves the executive branch and the state security crops to make the respective investigations."

When asked if Congres could take a stand on the matter, he said that "obviously we could, with the understanding that the executive branch must first urge Congress to do so. Congress could do so on its own but this would obviously require a review and the filing of the respective motion with the legislative body."

NICARAGUA

SWEDISH PAPER INTERVIEWS JUNTA'S RAMIREZ

PM251505 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 21 Feb 82 p 4

[Johnny Flodman dispatch: "No Arms From Nicaragua to El Salvador Guerrillas"]

[Text] Managua -- "When we had our revolution we obtained our arms on the black market. Chiefly in the United States. Everything could be brought there. I assume that the revolutionaries in El Salvador are doing the same." So said Sergio Ramirez, a member of Nicaragua's ruling junta, when I asked him who is supplying the leftwing guerrillas in El Salvador with arms.

The Reagan administration claims that the arms are coming from the Soviet Union and other communist states and that Cuba and Nicaragua are responsible for the final stage of transport. "Pure propaganda," Ramirez said. "The United States has set this campaign in motion simply to be able to intervene in El Salvador and crush the guerrillas. The Americans are also trying to find an excuse to destabilize the situation here and reintroduce a Somoza regime."

Sergio Ramirez is 40, a lawyer by profession and a well-known author. He has been involved from the start, that is, since 20 July 1979 when the dictator, General Somoza, was toppled and the so-called Sandinist movement took power. Its name comes from the revolutionary Augusto Cesar Sandino who was executed in Nicaragua exactly 48 years ago.

Well-guarded by forbidding young revolutionaries, Ramirez and other leaders have their offices in the Casa de Gobierno -- the government house, which is also one of the modern buildings erected in the center since the catastrophic earthquake in 1972. Visitors are searched with a metal detector not only at the entrance to the building, but also outside the offices of supreme power.

At his press conference last Thursday [18 February] President Ronald Reagan said that Nicaragua's Army is considerably larger than is needed to defend the country. "We have heard this before. New exaggerations, as usual," was Ramirez' comment. "We need this army to defend our borders and protect ourselves against foreign forces. We really have no plans to attack anyone."

Ramirez did not want to reveal how large the regular army is. But the majority of recent reports have put the size of the forces at between 20,000 and 25,000 and this means that it is the largest army in this part of the world. El Salvador has an army of a little over 16,000, Honduras has 12,000 men in arms and Guatemala 14,000.

In addition, Nicaragua's forces are very well equipped with arms, including tanks from the Soviet Union and the GDR. "We have no ambitions to further build up the army," Ramirez said. "However, we do intend to increase our capacity to mobilize the people in the defense of the country."

Ramirez is here referring to the reservist forces and the civil guard which already exist and which are estimated at 50,000 by Western experts. According to Ramirez they will be increased even further.

[Question] What they are the foreign forces which threaten Nicaragua?

"Primarily we have problems on our border in the north, that is, with Honduras," he replied, indicating that former members of Somoza'a National Guard are being trained in Honduras. "We have been attacked several times across the Coco River on the Atlantic coast," he said. "This fighting took place in December and January and we lost around 40 men killed and injured."

Ramirez further claimed that many of the leaders of these groups in Honduras are trained in Florida. Here he was referring to the military courses organized by the Cuban exile Jorge "Bombillo" Gonzalez outside Miami. The aim is, Gonzalez has said, to help the opponents of the Sandinist regime in Managua. "Perhaps many people think that these are exercises like something out of an operetta. But we are taking them very seriously," Ramirez said.

The Reagan administration has threatened to blockade both Cuba and Nicaragua to halt arms deliveries to the guerrillas in El Salvador. A few days ago the Washington POST also reported that the United States is also planning to encourage political and paramilitary operations against Cuban presence in Nicaragua; the CIA would be one of the organizations involved. "We are ready to meet such a situation both politically and militarily," Ramirez declared, making it clear at the same time that his government is very worried by developments. "There are, of course, several examples of U.S. intervention in Central America," he said.

[Question] How would Sergio Ramirez characterize Nicaragua's policy, then? Washington is claiming that the country is being turned into "another Cuba" because of its dependence on Fidel Castro's regime.

"From the very beginning we declared that we were nonaligned, and we still are," he explained. "We have contacts with the Soviet Union, it is true. We have close ties with Cuba. That is also true. But our relations with Mexico are just as good. "You must not forget that Cuba was the first country to help us after the revolution," he went on. "The Cuban Government sent doctors, teachers and other experts, they now total 2,000." And he added: "We do not intend to weaken our ties with Cuba and the Soviet Union simply to please the United States."

Ramirez also claimed that Cuba has no influence whatsoever in Nicaragua. "It is a case of aid from that country, nothing else," he said. The junta leader did not accept that Cuba had also sent military advisers to Nicaragua. Western information indicates that there are between 1,500 and 2,000. Moreover, a smaller number of Soviet and East German military experts are said to be in the country. The latter are there to take responsibility for the security service.

However, in the interview Ramirez revealed that Nicaraguan officers receive training in Cuba. "This is normal since we do not have any military schools here," he said.

The United States has accused Nicaragua of helping to train leftwing guerrillas in El Salvador. "Unfounded claims," he said. "We support the revolutionary forces there. But we do so at the political level through our statements, through the press and in the international arena."

Also, Ramirez did not agree that Nicaragua's leaders are Marxist-Leninists. Marxism-Leninism is a part of our philosophy. We are revolutionaries who want to build up a new system in Nicaragua and we take the best things from various doctrines," he stressed. "We don't want to have a label stuck on us."

I raised the fact that even so-called "friendly" parties in Central America have become increasingly skeptical of the Sandinist movement. This is one of the reasons why the Socialist International postponed the meeting planned for 24-25 February in Caracas, Venezuela. The host party in Venezuela -- Democratic Action -- did not want to give the Sandinists their normal status as observers but announced that "even the most prominent Sandinists who declared themselves to be Marxist-Leninists and should not therefore belong to our international." Similar words came from Costa Rica's National Liberation Party.

"This is part of the U.S. strategy to isolate us and exert pressure on Venezuela and Costa Rica," is Ramirez' explanation.

[Question] What about the general election the Sandinists promised after the revolution and which has been postponed until 1985? "Quite right, we did promise a general election. But we never fixed a date," he replied. "Five years is what we need to build up a new Nicaragua. There are still many problems to solve both politically and economically. "In addition we are anxious to convince the United States that our country is independent and that our revolution is our own," he went on. "We have made and are still making efforts to get a dialogue with the United States started.

"But it isn't easy," he declared. "The United States has never accepted independent states in Latin America but has always wanted to dictate its policy to them."

However, Ramirez makes no secret of the fact that Nicaragua would like to expand cooperation with other countries, including those in Western Europe, and receive more help. He welcomed Swedish development aid and said finally: "We respect Swedish foreign policy, irrespective of whether it is articulated by the Social Democratic Party or by the conservatives."

AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCE PRICE-CONTROL MEASURES

PA041348 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] The National Financing System will participate in price control measures on staples and manufactured products to protect consumers from unjustified price increases in some industrial products. This office will coordinate its actions with those of previously existing price control institutions and the Industry Ministry to implement a new plan. The plan is to give foreign exchange to industries which are effectively and properly complying with the ministry's regulations by obeying the price lists for staples and manufactured goods.

Here is Companero Alfredo Cesar on the role that the National Bank will play in this price control program" [Begin recording] The Industry Ministry will play an important role in the control of manufactured products. The Industry Ministry is already taking steps. It has established a small office to contact various industrialists and inform them that prices cannot be raised without a previous economic justification to the Industry Ministry. However, this is in the case of industries affected by [words indistinct] and which are not exporting [words indistinct].

Therefore, they will have to present a detailed account to the Industry Ministry which will be in charge of authorizing any price increases.

This will have to be controlled and the Industry Ministry will consult with the (?board of directors) of the factories and use its participation in the technical [word indistinct] for exports to approve or deny foreign exchange for those industries which do not follow the ministry's instructions. We will be ready to receive their recommendations [words indistinct] to take effective steps [words indistinct] industrialists who are beginning to [word indistinct] in an orderly fashion. Therefore, these would be the three ways that the revolutionary government would control the prices of staples and manufactured products. [end recording]

APN OPPOSES DRAFT BILL ON COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

PA021830 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Communique issued by the Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal Association of Newsmen of Nicaragua, APN, on 1 March 1982, Nicaraguan Journalists Day; read by announcer]

[Text] The Association of Newsmen of Nicaragua greets the Nicaraguan people on the occasion of the commemoration of National Journalists Day, and renews to our fellow countrymen its commitment to practice and defend a democratic journalism that may guarantee freedom of expression, the starting point of freedom itself.

On this occasion, we want to denounce before the peoples of the world the communications media draft bill which is under study. This bill threatens freedom of thought and tries to impose a number of coersive measures in a disguised attempt to strangle freedom of information. Freedom of information is a right granted by the Nicaraguan Fundamental Statute of Rights and Guarantees of the original program of the National Reconstruction Government. This statute is the source of our country's rights.

With considerable concern, we observe that, despite continued efforts by Mr (Manuel Teron), Radio Amor and Radio Mi Preferido are still off the air. This demonstrates that in the regulation of radio broadcasting, the Directorate of Communications media is exerting political pressure on the media. Some media are punished for their independent and democratic line.

For this reason, we ask that Radio Amor and Radio Mi Preferida return to the air to do justice and bolster the freedom of expression which the government claims to uphold.

While speaking of freedom of expression in Nicaragua, the authorities seem to accept the fact that the information programs "Ten O'clock Sharp" of Radio Corporacion and "News and Commentaries" of Radio Catolica remain off the air by order of the Directorate of Communications Media which has punished these programs by suspending them indefinitely.

The APN also regrets the fact that so far this year similar sanctions have been imposed on the following programs: "The Moment and Today" of Radio Mundial; "Fourth Estate" and "Opinion" of Radio Mil; "Onward" and "Free Press News and Commentaries" of Radio Catolica; "Six O'clock Sharp" and "Ten O'clock Sharp" of Radio Corporacion.

The APN considers it a duty to our fellow countrymen to exhort our authorities to order the reopening of the closed information services and to instruct the Directorate of Communications Media to be more respectful of the laws [words indistinct], despite the provisions of the Fundamental Statute of Rights and Guarantees of Nicaraguans.

To conclude this communique, we want to reiterate our disagreement with the communications media draft bill because we believe that it threatens freedom of the press, [word indistinct] We hope the information services and the closed stations will return to the air in order to make effective the freedom of expression in Nicaragua.

DPRK FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL042044 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] The foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, [DPRK], Ho Tam, arrived in Havana today leading a delegation from his country. At the air terminal he was welcomed by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca. Also with the welcoming party were Olga Miranda, acting vice minister of foreign relations; Ana Maria Gonzalez, director of the Asian and Oceania Departments of the Foreign Ministry, among other officials. The delegation was also welcomed at the airport by Yi In-chun, ambassador from the fraternal country in Cuba, and other members of that embassy. Other members of the delegation include, Ko Son-sun, counselor; Kim Kil-hyon, director of Nonaligned Countries, and (Lin Yong-sun), specialist of the Directorate of Nonaligned Countries.

HUNGARIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR DISCUSSIONS

FL042331 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] At the invitation of the Cuban Foreign Ministry, Janos Nagy, state secretary of the Foreign Ministry of the Hungarian People's Republic [as heard], has arrived in Havana City accompanied by his wife and other officials of the Foreign Ministry of that fraternal country. At the airport to welcome the visitors were Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Jose R. Viera, Isabel Allende, acting director of the Foreign Ministry Socialist Countries Directorate, and other officials.

UK ECONOMIC DELEGATION BEGINS COOPERATION TALKS

FL011305 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] (Roy Williams), deputy secretary of (UTRAMAR's) trade division from Great Britain has arrived in Havana to participate in the fifth intergovernemntal meeting of the Cuba-Britain joint committee for economic and industrial cooperation.

Talks Held

FL020210 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] The joint intergovernmental committee for Cuban-British economic and industrial cooperation began meeting today in the protocol hall of the Sierra Maestra Hotel for the purpose of analyzing economic, industrial, commerical and financial relations between the Republic of Cuba and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Jose Fernandez de Cossio, vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and (Roy Williams) Deputy Secretary of the British Overseas Trade Department, are heading the delegations of their respective countries. The meeting will end on 4 March.

UK HOUSE OF COMMONS DELEGATION ARRIVES

FL041235 havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] A delegation of the Parliamentary committee for Foreign Affairs of the British House of Commons, headed by its chairman, (Sir Anthony Desham) of the Conservative Party, arrived in Havana last evening. The 13 members of this committee, who will remain in Cuba until next Sunday, are carrying out in (?two) groups a tour of Mexico, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Venezuela, Grenada, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. During their stay in Cuba the British Parliament members will meet with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and with Isidoro Cabrizas, minister of foreign trade.

The 12 [as heard] British Parliament members will also attend a lunch given for them by Flavio Bravo, president of the People's Government National Assembly.

FIDEL, RAUL CASTRO BID FAREWELL TO MEXICAN ENVOY

FL031258 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1033 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers; and Army Gen Raul Castro, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and minister of Revolutionary Armed Forces, MINIFAR, attended the farewell reception for Mexican Ambassador Gonzalo Martinez Corbala last night. Referring to his stay in Cuba, the diplomat said that it was filled with expressions of affection which would leave an everlasting impression on him and his family. Regarding the courageous position of the Mexican Government and its people toward the Cuban revolution, Martinez Corbala said that when you have the historical basis and the affection between Mexico and Cuba, there is no force that can break those ties. The Mexican diplomat described Fidel as one of the greatest men he had ever known.

Envoy Stresses Ties

PA032022 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Fidel Castro, the top Cuban leader, and Gen Raul Castro, first vice president of the Council of State and Government [as heard] and Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces attended the reception that Mexican Ambassador Gonzalo Martinex Corbala gave last night at his residence to say farewell.

In a statement to the Cuban newspaper GRANMA concerning relations between the two countries, Martinez Corbala said that when one is historically right and when there is affection like that between the Mexican and Cuban peoples, their ties can never be severed. The Mexican diplomat said that he is leaving his post as ambassador for administrative reasons but will remain forever as a friend.

The reception was attended by other top-level Cuban leaders including Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, Culture Minister Armando Hart, Agriculture Minister Arnaldo Milian and Osmani Cienfuegos, secretary of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers.

FUNDORA MEETS WITH VISITING CPSU DELEGATION

FL021443 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1229 GMT 2 Mar 82

[Text] Orlando Fundora, alternate member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and chief of its Revolutionary Orientation Department, has met in Havana City with Vitaliy Nikitich Ignatenko, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Information Department, and a delegation accompanying him. During the talks, which were held in a fraternal atmosphere, matters of mutual interest were discussed.

HART, GARCIA MARQUEZ TRAVEL TO MANAGUA

FL040240 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] The need to struggle to save humanity from the scourge of a war was expressed today in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, by Cuban Minister of Culture Armando Hart and the Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Hart and Garcia Marquez arrived in Nicaragua to participate in the first meeting of the permament committee of intellectuals for the sovereignty of the Latin American and Caribbean Countries.

The Cuban minister of culture said that the Latin American and Caribbean intellectuals are struggling to save our peoples from a war, and that for the first time in history the possibility of extermination is present. Hart praised the French-Mexican proposal for reaching a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict and greeted the peace proposals for Central America and the Caribbean made by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo last Sunday in Managua.

RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH VISITING IRAQI MINISTER

FL041240 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the party's Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Muhammad Fadil Husayn, Iraqi minister of public works and housing. Fadil Husayn is heading the delegation to the third intergovernmental session of the joint Cuban-Iraqi committee which is being held in Havana. During the past year, pointing out to the increase in bilateral trade and economic cooperation, basically in the fields of public health, construction, computer systems and trade.

Protocol Signed

FL042101 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Mar 82

[Text] Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister-president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperaton, and Iraq's Public Works and Housing Minister Muhammad Fadil Husayn have signed the final protocol of the third meeting of the Cuban-Iraqi joint committee. The document provides for cooperation in the branches of construction, public health and commerce. Others present at the signing ceremony were government minister Levi Farah and other officials of the government.

FIDEL CASTRO MEETS WITH PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADERS

FL271315 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 27 Feb 82

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro met yesterday with the first secretaries of the party in the provinces, leadership cadres of the Sugar Industry Ministry [MINAZ] and its provincial delegates. Jose Ramirez Cruz, president of the National Association of Small Farmers, Julian Rizo Alvarez, member of the party Central Committee Secretariat, and Luis Martell Rosas, secretary general of the National Sugar Industry Workers Union, also took part in the meeting.

The meeting evaluated the present development of the sugar harvest and defined the details of the strategy that must be implemented so that the sugar harvest campaign will end with the fulfillment of the objectives planned to carry out a superior sugar harvest. The meeting stressed the need to refine the maximum amount and to increase industrial efficiency at this decisive stage of the sugar harvest. More canecutters must be incorporated wherever necessary and a decrease in the cane cut during the weekends must not be allowed. Another topic discussed was the saving of fuel, and the need was stressed of not disregarding the measures adopted so that the final evaluation will correspond with the promising results already achieved. The MINAZ leaders informed Comrade Fidel about cultural activities in sugarcane farming and the spring planting. At the meeting the need of not disregarding any of these tasks, which are so important for the coming sugar harvest, was stressed.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

BRIEFS

COTTON EXPORTS TO JAPAN -- St Johns, Antigua, Mar 3 (CANA) -- Antigua and Barbuda's agriculture minister, Robin Yearwood, says the future of the local cotton industry is very bright because of a ready market in Japan which has stated a willingness to buy all the cotton the country can produce. Mr Yearwood said this meant that cotton farmers now had a constant market for their crop and he announced that his government would be collaborating with St Kitts-Nevis to benefit fully from the Japanese offer. The agriculture minister said the Japanese had even indicated their willingness to send their ships here to collect the cotton as long as they are assured of a ready supply. Mr Yearwood also said his government had employed the services of a consultant to advise it on how best it could benefit from the deal. He added that Italy too was interested in buying local cotton as long as there was a guaranteed supply. Announcing that the acreage under cotton cultivation would be doubled during this year, the agriculture minister appealed to farmers to go all out to meet both the Japanese and Italian demands. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1928 GMT 3 Mar 82 FL]

GRENADA

GOVERNMENT DENIES SUPPLYING ARMS TO EL SALVADOR

FL032350 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Grenada's revolutionary government has denied giving any physical assistance to the freedom fighters in El Salvador, although it has pledged continued moral, political and diplomatic support for the struggling people of the Central American country. The PRG's [People's Revolutionary Government] statement is in response to a report in the New York TIMES, which report quoted Napoleon Duarte, head of the civilian-military dictatorship in El Salvador, as saying that Grenada was supplying arms to the freedom fighters in El Salvador.

The PRG rejected the allegation calling it an irresponsible and mischevious declaration, the product of the imagination of a desperate man. The PRG statement said it has been made clear to the world that Grenada fully supports the historic French-Mexican declaration which recognized the revolutionary forces in El Salvador. It said that Grenada will continue to show its unshakable solidarity with their just cause. The PRG statement ended by saying that this is the extent of Grenada's support and in the fulfillment of its duty no lies or threats will stop Grenada.

SURINAME

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES LIFTING OF CURFEW

PA270247 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2311 GMT 26 Feb 82

[Text] Caracas, 26 Feb (EFE) -- Lt Col Deysi Bouterse has announced over television that the Suriname Government has lifted the curfew that had been in effect in the country for the past 2 years.

The announcement has coincided with the second anniversary of the assumption to power of the current military junta after overthrowing the government of Henck Arron.

Bouterse did not specify the reasons for lifting the curfew but he announced that the military junta plans to immediately adopt several measures to relax tension in order to establish a civilian administration on 15 March.